

District joins 'Achieving Family Friendly Schools' program

The Shoreline School District is participating in a training program, "Achieving Family Friendly Schools."

The program is sponsored and led by the Washington Alliance for Better Schools, and is being funded by the Northshore/Shoreline Community Health and Safety Network.

Teams from each elementary site were brought together for trainings in October and December. It included basic activities that can be quickly implemented, such as bringing families into the building for a walk-through of the school, a review of bulletin board readability, mailings in different languages, and interviewing focus groups.

"This process is not a quick fix, but rather involves instituting practices that will be sustained over time," said Brian Schultz, executive director of student learning and schools.

Each school received a toolkit and is developing a family-friendly plan for their school to implement.

Making a school family friendly

Safety Committee working on district-wide emergency preparedness planning

The Shoreline Schools Safety Committee is working on a significant update to the district's emergency preparedness manual and developing best practices for safety in our schools.

The committee was formed a year ago and includes parents, principals, District administrators and staff, and representatives from the police, fire, and emergency management departments of the cities of Shoreline and Lake Forest Park.

Meeting monthly, the committee has recently completed a strategic plan to guide its future work. It was presented to the Shoreline School Board at its Jan. 7 meeting.



Highland Terrace PTA brought together local experts and organizations for a successful Science Night for that school community.

can include such things as improved signage within the building, increased communication with parents, enhancement to the school's Web site, and surveying families on their feelings about the school.

Two schools, Highland Terrace and

Ridgecrest, experienced a more significant blending of communities as a result of the closure of North City and Sunset. For example, at Highland Terrace, the enrollment has grown from 340 students to about 420, with 55 percent of the students being new to the school. At Ridgecrest, enrollment has grown to 475, with the inclusion of many North City area students.

The Washington Alliance for Better Schools will be providing additional support to these two sites.

Boundary exception applications needed by February 15

Parents with students currently attending a Shoreline School District school on a boundary exception approved *after* Jan. 27, 2007 are required to complete a new boundary exception form indicating their school placement preference for the 2008-09 school year.

The forms need to be returned to their child's current school by Feb. 15, 2008.

For those parents whose child is currently attending Shoreline schools on boundary exceptions granted *prior* to Jan. 27, 2007, a boundary exception form is needed only for students that are transitioning from kindergarten to elementary school, elementary to middle school and middle to high school.

The District will make every effort to place students at their first-choice school, subject to space availability.

The District is also accepting new applications for boundary exceptions. Applications will be processed in the order received.

For more information, please contact your school secretary or the Boundary Exceptions Office at 206-368-4771.

Superintendent's Message:

Starting a conversation about mathematics standards in our schools

Dear Shoreline Families:

Washington and many other states across the United States are engaged in meaningful and focused conversations on the topic of K-12 mathematics standards, curriculum and assessment. During the 2007 legislative session last spring, Washington lawmakers called for a review and a revision of the state's K-12 mathematics standards.

At the end of August, the Washington State Board of Education concluded its work of reviewing the current standards in mathematics. A complete copy of the recommendations can be found at www.sbe.wa.gov/documents/WAFinalRecommendationsMath8-30.pdf

In response to the State Board of Education's independent review, in October 2007 the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) announced the selection of the Charles A. Dana Center for Mathematics and Science Education affiliated with the University of Texas at Austin to assist OSPI in the K-12 mathematics standards revision process. OSPI is required to present the revised standards to the State Legislature by Jan. 31, 2008.

A copy of the current draft standards is available at www.utdanacenter.org/wamathrevision/

Following formal adoption of the

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Math WASL Results 2007

	Enroll	%F/R Lunch	Ethnicity (as reported by OSPI)						Meeting Standard		
			% White	%Asian	%Black	%Hisp	% AI/AN*	%ELL	%4th	%7th	%10th
Issaquah	16,115	7	74	19	2	4	0.6	3	78	75	75
Lake Wash	23,799	11	74	14	3	6	0.7	5	80	75	76
Northshore	20,246	14	76	11	2	7	1	4	74	73	73
Bellevue	16,569	17	56	24	3	8	0.3	8	80	76	70
Shoreline	9,534	21	65	18	7	6	1.4	6	76	63	64
Olympia	9,055	21	79	9	3	5	1.2	2	70	70	65
Edmonds	21,030	28	68	14	6	9	1.5	9	59	58	54
Marysville	11,896	32	72	7	2	9	8.5	6	51	39	42
Everett	18,838	32	70	12	4	9	1.5	8	63	58	54
Bellingham	10,714	32	77	6	2	9	2.4	5	69	63	65
Auburn	13,932	38	65	10	7	14	4.6	10	56	52	46
Mukilteo	14,485	40	59	14	5	15	1.6	15	55	57	57
Seattle	46,097	41	42	22	22	11	2.2	11	62	53	50
Federal Way	22,759	44	48	15	14	16	1.4	11	63	54	54
Tacoma	30,060	55	50	12	23	12	2	6	46	43	36

*American Indian/Alaskan Native


The chart above, sorted by percentage of free and reduced price lunch, shows how Shoreline compares with other Puget Sound area school districts for students meeting standard for the math WASL in 2007. This chart also includes data on enrollment, ethnicity, and English Language Learners programs.

revised standards, the next phase of this process is the legislative requirement for the state to choose three mathematics "curricula" for elementary, middle and high school levels. These recommendations are to be presented to the State Board of Education by May 15, 2008.

The final step in this process will be a decision on the assessment tools the State will use to measure student achievement toward the new standards. Last spring the Washington State Legislature delayed passing the math WASL as a graduation requirement until 2013. It did, however, mandate that students take math each semester until they pass the WASL or graduate.

The coming months will offer an exciting opportunity for the Shoreline educational community to review and evaluate our current mathematics curriculum

for alignment with the newly-revised standards. As a former high school math teacher in Shoreline, I look forward to this process. There is no doubt that we can and must do a better job of providing all students with the necessary mathematics skills and background for our competitive world. The Shoreline educational community is up to this challenge!

Sincerely, 

Emergency Planning

Continued from front

On March 5, the District will participate in "Sound Shake 08," a regional earthquake drill. Shoreline students and staff will conduct a "duck, cover and hold" earthquake drill.

Per state requirements, all Shoreline Schools annually conduct at least one safety-related drill each month that school is in session. This includes drills for lockdowns, for shelter-in-place and no less than six fire evacuation drills per year.

The committee plans to complete its updated emergency preparedness manual in time for implementation in the 2008-09 school year. The District's current manual is fully functional, but the update will provide more detailed procedures as set forth by the Washington Emergency Management Division.

The manual details procedures to be used in a variety of emergency situations, including lockdown, fire, earthquake and inclement weather.

Shoreline Schools Calendar

Jan. 21: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Jan. 26: Kinderfest, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Shoreline Center

Jan. 28: Kindergarten registration begins at elementary schools

Jan. 28: School Board meeting

Feb. 4: No school; staff workday

Feb. 15-19: Mid-winter break

March 14: No school; staff workday

March 31-April 4: Spring Break

For a complete District calendar, visit www.shorelineschools.org